

Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A solid homogeneous antidripping fluoropolymer concentrate, in the form of a bulk block or particles, said concentrate consisting of:

A) fluoropolymer granules having a flame retardant selected from brominated epoxy resins melt-coated thereon; said melt-coated fluoropolymer granules being obtained by

- i) melting the flame retardant into a molten phase;
- ii) mixing fluoropolymer granules into said molten phase;
and
- iii) solidifying said molten phase to form said melt-coated fluoropolymer granules;

and optionally

B) additives selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet and light stabilizers, UV screeners, UV absorbers, release agents, lubricants, colorants, plasticizers, fillers, blowing agents, heat stabilizers, antioxidants, reinforcement additives, impact modifiers, and processing aids.

2. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein said concentrate comprises one or more fluoropolymers and one or more flame retardants.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 2, wherein said one or more fluoropolymers are selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), poly(hexafluoroethylene), poly(tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoroethylene), and poly(tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene-propylene).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A concentrate according to claim 2, wherein said one or more flame retardants ~~fluoropolymers~~ are selected from the group consisting of brominated epoxy resins, high molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, modified brominated epoxy resins, low molecular weight brominated epoxy resins, partly end-capped brominated epoxy resins with fatty acid, and their mixtures.
7. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.1 wt% to 60 wt%.
8. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 7, containing an amount of the fluoropolymer from 0.5 wt% to 20 wt%.
9. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant has a melting point below 300 °C.
10. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is obtained from precursors having a melting point below 300 °C.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant has a melt viscosity lower than 10,000 cp.
13. (Previously presented) A concentrate according to claim 12, wherein the flame retardants or said flame retardant precursors has a melt viscosity lower than 2,000 cp.
14. (Withdrawn) Process for making a composition according to claim 2, which comprises melting a flame retardant, mixing the fluoropolymer with said molten flame retardant, allowing the mixture to solidify and particulating the solidified mixture.

15. (Withdrawn) Process for making a composition according to claim 2, which comprises providing flame retardant precursors in molten condition, mixing said precursors with a fluoropolymer and optionally with a catalyst, reacting said precursors to form a molten flame retardant mixed with said fluoropolymer, allowing the mixture to solidify and particulating the solidified mixture.

16. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer matrix and an additive composition according to claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, wherein the polymer matrix comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, impact polystyrene, styrene copolymers, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene terpolymers (ABS), alloys of ABS such as polycarbonate/ABS, alloys of polystyrene such as polyphenylene oxide/polystyrene, polycarbonates, polycarbonate alloys with PBT or polyamide, polyesters such as polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide resins such as polyamide 6 and 66, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer (SAN), polyphenylene ether (PPE), polyester carbonate and blends of the aforesaid polymers.

18. (Withdrawn) Process for making a thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, which comprise the steps of compounding the polymer matrix with the additive composition and optionally with other additives.

19. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 18, wherein the polymer matrix and the additive composition, and optionally the other additives, are compounded in an apparatus selected from the group consisting of extruders, batch mixers and internal mixers.

20. (Withdrawn) Plastic articles made by extruding or molding a thermoplastic composition according to claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) Master batch containing the composition of claim 1 in a thermoplastic carrier.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer matrix and an additive composition according to claim 2.
33. (Withdrawn) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 32, wherein the polymer matrix comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, impact polystyrene, styrene copolymers, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene terpolymers (ABS), alloys of ABS such as polycarbonate/ABS, alloys of polystyrene such as polyphenylene oxide/polystyrene, polycarbonates, polycarbonate alloys with PBT

or polyamide, polyesters such as polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide resins such as polyamide 6 and 66, styrene acrylonitrile copolymer (SAN), polyphenylene ether (PPE), polyester carbonate and blends of the aforesaid polymers.

34. (Withdrawn) Process for making a thermoplastic composition according to claim 32, which comprise the steps of compounding the polymer matrix with the additive composition and optionally with other additives.

35. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 34, wherein the polymer matrix and the additive composition, and optionally the other additives, are compounded in an apparatus selected from the group consisting of extruders, batch mixers and internal mixers.

36. (Withdrawn) Plastic articles made by extruding or molding a thermoplastic composition according to claim 32.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The concentrate according to claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is obtained by reacting flame retardant precursors in the presence of a catalyst.